



## **Press Release**

### **SAVOUR Muskoka Farm Committee to Stimulate Local Food**

**January 6, 2010 – Bracebridge**

The newly formed SAVOUR Muskoka Farm Committee is planning workshops to stimulate the supply of local food. The vision is to provide the community with a wide array of resources, hands on experiences and information sessions that can lead into new farming and gardening opportunities. A workshop planned for mid-march will focus on maple syrup production. In early April the focus will be on starting seedlings in a greenhouse or cold frame. Other workshops will follow with the season, including mushrooms, wild forging, basic gardening, & raising livestock.

The committee tackled some massive issues during its first meeting. These issues include making it affordable for current farmers to teach young people how to farm, making land available for new farmers to use, sharing current skills and best practices with the community and the importance of increasing supply to meet current demand. Over the last year SAVOUR Muskoka has witnessed an increase in local food awareness, as seen with the success of the mushroom workshops by board member Jack Hay. The consumer not only has a desire to find out where to purchase local food but wants to learn about how to produce food. This consumer, wanting an educational farming experience, coupled with an emergence of young farmers wanting to get involved has prompted SAVOUR Muskoka to form a farm committee.

The workshops will serve three purposes. Firstly they will increase production and integrate farmers into the community. Secondly, the workshops will lay the ground work for a school curriculum, as syllabuses will be formed out of each workshop. Finally, the workshops will inspire people to work on farms or initiate their own market garden.

The Farm Committee, as associated with SAVOUR Muskoka will continue to work with regional stakeholders in order to stimulate farming in Muskoka/Parry Sound. We strive to bring added value and market investment to the community of Muskoka / Parry Sound. SAVOUR Muskoka, a FedNor initiative, and its members are united in their efforts to celebrate and share in Muskoka's agricultural and culinary heritage as these activities support healthy environments and economic growth.

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